

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

11150 EAST BOULEVARD AT UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 CABLE ADDRESS: MUSART CLEVELAND
SHERMAN E. LEE, DIRECTOR TELEPHONE: 421-7340

December 1975

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

"It needs to be painted by the hand of a Berruguete or some other excellent painter like him, or by Leonardo da Vinci or Andrea Mantegna, famous painters whom I knew in Italy," wrote Fernandez de Oviedo in the 1530s.

The Spanish soldier was trying to describe an American plant so unlike any to be seen in Europe that he was uncertain whether it was a species of tree or some monstrous quirk of nature.

Nearly three centuries later the great German explorer and scientist Alexander von Humbolt was still calling for painters capable of doing justice to America.

Both men were keenly aware of how different it all was from everything in Europe -- this fabulous, extravagant new found land which from the time of its discovery seized the imaginations of kings and popes, philosophers and adventurers, artists, writers, and in a single decade in the mid-19th century, drew more than 2,000,000 immigrants to its shores.

The image of the new world as it developed in European minds over a span of four centuries -- from Columbus' landfall to the closing years of the 19th century -- is explored in an exhibition organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art, and presently on view at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

Entitled "The European Vision of America," the exhibition brings together more than 340 European paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints,

(more)

ceramics, textiles, rare early maps and books.

Works have been loaned by important museums and private collections in more than a dozen countries; many have not previously been exhibited on this side of the Atlantic.

The exhibition has been organized in tribute to the nation's Bicentennial by the Cleveland Museum, with the cooperation of the National Gallery and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux de France. It is supported by grants from the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities.

Following its showing in Washington December 7 - February 15, 1976, the exhibition will travel to Cleveland for display April 28 - August 8, 1976, then to Paris where it will be on view at the Grand Palais September 17 - January 3, 1977.

Hugh Honour, British art historian, is guest curator. William S. Talbot, Associate Curator of Paintings at the Cleveland Museum, has been responsible for coordination of all aspects of the exhibition.

#

For additional information, please contact Frances Stamper, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; (216) 421-7340.